

## September 4, 2019 Board Meeting at El Cerrito Food Annex

Attendees: Howdy KE6BEE, Larry KK6GIO, Hal KK6NDF, and Don NI6A

Larry discovered the history of KaroEcho through a search of old newsletters, minutes, and newspaper archives of the Kensington public safety commissions, police board, newspaper morgues and library searches. It seems that Karoecho was first formed in 1997.

Kensington Community Center progress report. The KCC antenna is down and the radio equipment is stored at FS-65. Harding Park and Tassajara Park are also not accessible. Currently there are no Karoecho accessible operating centers other than the three fire stations and the EOC. [Editor's Note: KaroEcho has lost access to the operating centers at Harding, Tassajara, the Senior Citizen Center, and now the KCC during the past two years.]

Discussed where the re-location of the Karoecho Go-Kart. Kensington Library area was discussed. Other possibilities were discussed. We need a centrally located volunteer who can provide safe access 24/day to a small cadre of vetted operators. Howdy will put this in the Newsletter and Hal will put this on the agenda for the general meeting. Howdy volunteered to inquire the possibility to store it at the Cerrito Vista park. **(Action Item)**

Hal, wants to go to the City Council for money. Don mentioned that money is not the problem; rather cooperation/permission to put up antennas and locate the comm centers is the more direct obstacle to overcome. A long discussion was pursued regarding where to send the hams and how the CERT people will find us or how the hams will find the CERT groups.

Hal suggested that KaroEcho should design where to put CERT comm sites. Don argued that this was CERT's decision. Given CERT's current state of disorganization there was general consensus that it would wise to proceed with establishing at least 6 Communications Hubs in El Cerrito.

The board reaffirmed our plea to the City for permission to put dual band and GMRS antennas on six park club houses Howdy committed to email Chris and copy Kevin requesting permission to install. **(Action Item)**. The board again agreed to push for it.

Don reported on the Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN) workshop on establishing neighborhood hubs with integrated communications centers (ham and gmrs) as has been instituted in Seattle and Portland CERT system. They are organized similarly in small neighborhood blocks, which report to neighbor hubs (hubs are another name for CERT neighborhood ICPs, gathering points, staging areas, or joint areas of responsibility) that have within it an interoperable communications message center; which can receive and transmit messages from the local blocks on GMRS/FRS and then triage and transfer those messages to the co-located amateur radio operator who will send it on to the

City EOC. This has been, in essence, KaroEcho's plan, but lacking cooperation from CERT to establish identifiable CERT Area ICPs and trained CERT FRS/GMRS operators. BDPNN is considering establishing such a plan because their OES is loosely organized and has no such plan by itself. KaroEcho would benefit if there was better CERT planning, a CERT Disaster Plan, a CERT Communications plan, and the establishment of identifiable hub locations. We are still waiting on CERT. Tie will tell.

Hal agreed to take on the task of getting all the Kensington ACs to agree on designating communications hubs so that Karoecho can send communicators. **(Action Item)**

Hal volunteered to be the liaison between KaroEcho and Kensington ACs. We need a single liaison between El Cerrito CERT and KaroEcho. Hal said that he will contact Rob K6RJM and Mike KM6CXI if they will accept liaison duties between EL Cerrito CERT and KaroEcho. **(Action Item)**

## **OUTREACH**

Mailer to all hams. Larry completed a very nice 1 sheet double sided mailer. Don provided the envelopes. Howdy volunteered to print the labels and return labels. Howdy, Natalie, Don, Larry, and Edward performed yeoman work to get the promotional letter to all El Cerrito and Kensington hams. This has been completed by Howdy, Robin, Hal, Natalie, and Don preceding the September general meeting.

Don reported that there are many data bases/spread sheets that he has to keep current. One sheet is the data base from the website Join app. The other separate spread sheet is the full roster. The third data base is a G-suite auto-mailer list to the members at Karoecho. A fourth spread sheet is a short list of the membership spreadsheet. The latter three lists have to be entered manually at this time. Don needs help in automating the method. We need to ask for a data base/spreadsheet volunteer. **(Action Item)**

Hal, said that Chris Hilliard will send him a list of all CERT members who indicated interest in radio communications. **Hal will follow through (ACTION ITEM).**

Hal proposed a youth group outreach program. Perhaps Boy Scouts? Don mentioned that we need to follow up on the 2 newly licensed hams on the average in Kensington/El Cerrito. **(ACTION ITEM)**

**Grant proposal.** Larry reminded us that a list of items for grant proposals has been established during the past two executive board meetings. He will send the list out to all the board members to remind us including our wishes for GMRS antennas to be installed at 6 Park Clubhouses and the KCC. **(ACTION ITEM)**

**Training:** LUTB.

KaroEcho may participate in the Light Up the Bay (LUTB) exercise or do its own SET. We

have decided to do 2 SETs a year in any case. If we don't do the LUTB exercise, then we will do our own SET that will focus on mutual aid between neighborhoods. . Howdy suggested that we might be better off doing our own SET. Hal said that he will ask Chris Hilliard if EC/KEN CERT wants to actively participate in either SET. **(ACTION ITEMS)**

Don and Howdy will do a 1 hour training at the next general membership meeting. The board agreed that the training session will precede the business part of the meeting. If this works out, we can continue doing the training prior to the business meetings.

Executive board meetings will commence in the future on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm with the exception of September because Hal will be out of town. **(Action Item)**